

Message Text

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13

ACTION EA-14

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FM AMEMBASSY SEOUL

TO SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 6197

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CINCPAC PRIORITY

C O N F I D E N T I A L SEOUL 6494

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: PINT, KS, KIN

SUBJECT: PRESIDENT PARK SHARPLY CRITICIZES OPPONENTS

1. PRESIDENT PARK CHUNG HEE SPOKE OUT SHARPLY OCTOBER 1 ON OCCASION ROK 26TH ARMED FORCES DAY CELEBRATION AGAINST HIS CRITICS AT HOME AS WELL AS NORTH KOREA. HE CALLED ON ROK ARMED FORCES AND ALL KOREANS TO ACCELERATE BUILDUP OF NATIONAL STRENGTH THROUGH SUCCESSFUL IMPLEMENTATION REVITALIZING REFORMS PROGRAMS.

2. IN A BITTER PUBLIC ATTACK ON NORTH KOREANS PARK CHARACTERIZED NORTHERNERS AS, "KILLERS WHO HAVE MURDERED MILLIONS," AND PERPETRATED BARBARIAN CRIMINAL ACT OF AUGUST 15. PRESIDENT CLAIMED DPRK HAD COMMITTED 10,000 PROVOCATIVE ACTS SINCE KOREAN WAR, WAS NOW USING JAPAN AS A BASE, AND WOULD CONTINUE TO PRESENT CLEAR AND PRESENT CHALLENGE AND TRIAL OF GREAT MAGNITUDE.

3. DEPARTING FROM ARMED FORCES DAY THEMES EXHORTING FELLOW COUNTRYMEN TO STRENGTHEN DEFENSE PREPAREDNESS PARK TOOK THIS YEAR'S OCCASION ALSO TO CRITICIZE AT LENGTH "ROMANTIC CONFIDENTIAL

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ILLUSIONISTS" IN SOUTH KOREA WHO IRRESPONSIBLY FAIL TO

SEE STARK REALITIES. NOTHING THAT HE WAS "CLOSELY WATCHING THE SITUATION" IN WHICH SOME PERSONS WERE AGAIN ATTEMPTING TO CHALLENGE THE YUSHIN REVITALIZATION SYSTEM, PARK CLAIMED IT WAS NECESSARY TO TEMPORARILY SACRIFICE OR VOLUNTARILY RESTRICT SOME OF THE FREEDOMS ENJOYED IN LUCKIER NATIONS. "IT WOULD BE REALLY LAMENTABLE" HE SAID "IF THERE WERE FOUND STILL SOME PEOPLE WHO HAVE YET TO AWAKEN FROM SUCH ILLUSIONS," DESPITE PERSISTING COMMUNIST CHALLENGE.

4. PARK REITERATED CALL FOR NON AGRESSION AGREEMENT WITH NORTH, DUAL ENTRY INTO UN, AND EVENTUAL UNIFICATION WHEN CONDITIONS RIPEN. HE CALLED ALSO FOR ACCELERATION OF BUILD-UP OF NATIONAL STRENGTH THROUGH "IMPLEMENTATION OF REVITALIZING REFORMS PROGRAMS -- AND NOTHING ELSE." FROM NOW ON HE SAID WE MUST TAKE UP QUESTION OF HOW TO FIGHT AND WIN OVER COMMUNISTS, ENSURING OUR SURVIVAL. WE MUST SUBLIMATE NATIONAL POTENTIAL INTO FIRM NATIONAL SOLIDARITY. THEN NEITHER COMMUNISTS "OR ANYONE ELSE" WOULD EVER DARE TO LOOK DOWN ON US.

5. PARK'S ARMED FORCES DAY SPEECH A YEAR AGO, WHILE CITING NORTHERN THREAT AND NOTING DPRK HAD STALLED SOUTH-NORTH TALKS, WAS BASICALLY POSITIVE EXHORTATION TO IMPROVE AND MODERNIZE DEFENSES AGAINST EXTERNAL AGRESSION IN SPIRIT OF REFORM CONSTITUTION. THIS YEAR PARK CLEARLY SEES BROADENED THREAT WHICH HAS PENETRATED CLOSER TO HOME AND WHICH INCLUDES ALL THOSE WHO CHALLENGE HIS CONSTITUTIONAL SYSTEM.

6. COMMENT: WHILE PRESIDENT PARK DELIVERED SPEECH IN TYPICAL MONOTONE, ITS LANGUAGE IS TOUGH AND MILITANT BOTH AS REGARDS DOMESTIC OPPOSITION AND OUTSIDE OPPONENTS. SENIOR BLUE HOUSE OFFICIALS HAVE CONFIRMED THAT PRESIDENT'S WORDS, IN PARTICULAR REGARDING DOMESTIC CRITICS, WERE DELIBERATE AND CAREFULLY CHOSEN. IN MANNER REMINISCENT OF LAST DECEMBER, BEFORE INSTITUTION OF EMERGENCY MEASURES, PRESIDENT PARK APPEARS TO BE CLEARLY WARNING HIS DOMESTIC OPPONENTS THAT HE WILL NOT COUNTENANCE DIRECT ATTACKS ON THE YUSHIN SYSTEM. PARK IN EFFECT APPEARS TO BE ONCE AGAIN THROWING DOWN THE GAUNTLET TO HIS DOMESTIC CRITICS.
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